

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A trouser belt, comprising:
  - (a) a strap having a first and a second end, the strap comprising two substantially nonelastic portions and a short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;
  - (b) a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap; and
  - (c) a keeper on the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt.
2. The trouser belt of claim 1, wherein the keeper is secured to the strap adjacent to the buckle and the short elastic portion is located substantially beneath the keeper.
3. The trouser belt of claim 2, wherein the short elastic portion is generally hidden by the keeper.
4. The trouser belt of claim 1, wherein the short elastic portion comprises a first elastic strip and a second elastic strip, the first elastic strip lying face to face to the second elastic strip and wherein the keeper is secured between the first elastic strip and the second elastic strip.
5. A trouser belt, comprising:
  - (a) a strap having a first and a second end, two substantially nonelastic portions and short elastic portion, the short elastic portion located between the two nonelastic portions, the short elastic portion providing a limited amount of lengthwise expansion to the strap;
  - (b) a buckle attached to the first end of the strap to secure a portion of the strap adjacent to the second end of the strap; and
  - (c) a keeper secured to the strap adjacent to the buckle to hold the second of the belt to the first end of the belt, the short elastic portion being substantially beneath the keeper.

6. The trouser belt of claim 5, wherein the short elastic portion is generally hidden by the keeper.

7. The trouser belt of claim 5, wherein the short elastic portion comprises a first elastic strip and a second elastic strip, the first elastic strip lying face to face to the second elastic strip and wherein the keeper is secured between the first elastic strip and the second elastic strip.